

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of maintaining a communication link comprising the steps of:
unregistering at a controller a dependent in communication with a master device using a communication channel on a frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(1)$; and
transmitting a message to the dependent indicating to the dependent to register with a communications network using a frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(2)$.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising the additional steps of:
receiving a registration message from the master device on the frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(1)$ indicating the dependent; and
registering the dependent with the master device before the step of unregistering.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:
transmitting another message indicating to the communications network to register the dependent with the communications network via the controller.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the dependent is unregistered when an unregistration message is received.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the dependent is unregistered when a strength of a signal transmitted between the dependent and the master device on the frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(1)$ falls below a threshold value.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 comprising the additional step of:
monitoring a communication channel associated with the master device on the frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(1)$.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the communication channel is defined by a frequency hopping sequence.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the message is transmitted using a frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(2)$.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:

transmitting a handoff message to the communications network indicating to the communications network to communicate directly with the dependent.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the handoff message is transmitted on the frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(2)$.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining a communication link comprising the steps of:

searching at a dependent for one or more frequency hopping sequences from a set of frequency hopping sequences;

registering the dependent with a first master device and a controller when a first frequency hopping sequence is detected, the first frequency hopping sequence being associated with the first master device;

continuously monitoring for frequency hopping sequences in the set of frequency hopping sequences;

registering the dependent with one of (1) the controller and (2) a second master device & the controller if the dependent detects a signal transmitted on a second frequency hopping sequence associated with the one of (1) the controller and (2) the second master device & the controller having a higher signal strength than a signal transmitted on the first frequency hopping sequence.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of registering the dependent with the first master device comprises the step of:

transmitting a registration message to the first master device using the first frequency hopping sequence.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of registering the dependent with the second master device comprises the step of:

transmitting a registration message to the second master device using the second frequency hopping sequence.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the set of frequency hopping sequences use a first frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(1)$.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 comprising the additional step of:
searching for a signal transmitted using a second frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(2)$ if no frequency hopping sequence in the set are detected.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15 comprising the additional step of:
registering with a communication network when the second frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(2)$ is detected, the communications network being associated with the second frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(2)$.
17. (Original) The method of claim 11 comprising the additional steps of:
receiving a registration message indicating the dependent to register with a communications network; and
registering with the communication network using a second frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(2)$.
18. (Original) A method for maintaining a communication link comprising the steps of:
receiving a first registration message at a master device from a dependent over a first frequency hopping sequence associated with the master device;
transmitting a second registration message over a second frequency hopping sequence associated with a second master device;
monitoring a strength at the master device for a signal transmitted by the dependent over the first frequency hopping sequence; and
transmitting an unregistration message over the second frequency hopping sequence if the strength of the signal transmitted over the first frequency hopping sequence falls below a threshold value.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the first and second frequency hopping sequences are part of a set of frequency hopping sequences on a same frequency band.